



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Washington, D.C. Woman Sentenced to Twelve Years in Prison for Brutal Stabbing Death of Next-Door Neighbor**

Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced that 27 year-old Gloria Tyndle, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today by Superior Court Judge Geoffrey A. Alprin to twelve years in prison in connection with the August 14, 2007, stabbing death of Tameka Hill. Tyndle was convicted of manslaughter while armed and related weapons offenses by a Superior Court jury on April 6, 2009.

According to evidence presented at trial, on August 14, 2007, the decedent, her husband, and their two children lived in an apartment on the second floor of a building located on 21<sup>st</sup> Place, N.E. The defendant lived in an apartment two doors away. On the night of the murder, at approximately midnight, the decedent was at home watching television with her husband while her children slept, when the defendant knocked on her door. The defendant had made similar unannounced, late-night visits in the past, and the victim had told her to stop. The decedent went to the door and told the defendant to go away. A short time later, the defendant returned and knocked on the door again. The decedent grabbed a stick, went out into the hallway, and got into an argument with the defendant. The decedent's husband heard the women arguing and went into the hallway to break up the fight. The husband was successful in his efforts and the defendant went back into her apartment.

When the decedent's husband went into the hallway, the apartment door closed behind him and locked both he and the decedent out. While the couple went to neighbors on the third floor to seek help getting back into their apartment, Witnesses saw the defendant peeking out of her apartment. Soon after, the decedent went back to her floor and the defendant attacked her in the hallway with a six-inch kitchen knife. The defendant seriously cut the victim on her right arm, cut her left wrist, and plunged the knife five inches into her chest. At trial, the medical examiner testified that the stab wound to the chest cut directly through the decedent's heart and killed her.

During the trial, the defendant argued self-defense, claiming that she stabbed the decedent only after the decedent and her husband dragged her into the hallway and assaulted her. This claim was contradicted

by the decedent's husband, and witnesses who said that the husband was not present in the hallway at the time of the stabbing.

In announcing today's sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended Metropolitan Police Detectives James Broadbent and John Bevilaqua, who investigated the case, Sergeant Sidney Paul and Officer Valkyrie Barnes, who were among the first responders to the scene and provided critical evidence at trial, and evidence technician Ridley Durham, who took photographs and gathered important evidence in the case. Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips also praised paralegals Debra Joyner and Marian Russell, who provided critical support efforts, and singled out witness advocate Marcia Rinker for her outstanding efforts working with witnesses and family members, and her work in guiding the family through the trial and sentencing. Finally, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips praised Assistant U.S. Attorney Jean Sexton, who initiated the investigation, Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Snyder, who indicted and tried the case, and Assistant U.S. Jonathan Hooks, who co-tried the case.

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